



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/york>



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York – Poquoson Extension Volunteers

November
2016
Vol.17 Issue 9

Merrilyn Dodson
Editor

Future Calendar Events

- December 6 6:30 – 8:30 pm Welcoming new MG Interns Pot-Luck meeting (location TBD)
- December 8 Learning Gardens Holiday gathering at Nettie Lamb's
- March 4 Twenty-fifth Annual Horticultural Extravaganza at Poquoson HS
- March 14 – March 30 Healthy Virginia Lawn Spring visits (join the team, contact Pete Peterman)
- March 24 8 am – 4 pm 6th Annual Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium
http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?sessionId=30DA91FCB2ECF055BE9DA46A7013CDE5.worker_registrant?llr=nzdak9dab&oeidk=a07ed9gywu8a2512d6b
- April 4 Evening MG monthly meeting at Tabb Library
- May 6 8 am – noon MG Spring Plant Sale at York Learning Garden
- July 8 MG Pot-Luck Picnic Luncheon at Poquoson Learning Garden
- August 21 – September 7 Healthy Virginia Lawn Fall visits

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York – Poquoson, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Merrilyn Dodson (872-0824, joint_dod@verizon.net) or Yvonne Hurst (890-4940, yhurst@vt.edu). The deadline for news for The Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month.

Contact Information: York – Poquoson MGs. If you have changes to your email, phone #, or address, please notify Yvonne Hurst. We want to keep all communication channels open.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Megan Tierney York-Poquoson Extension Agent at 757 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

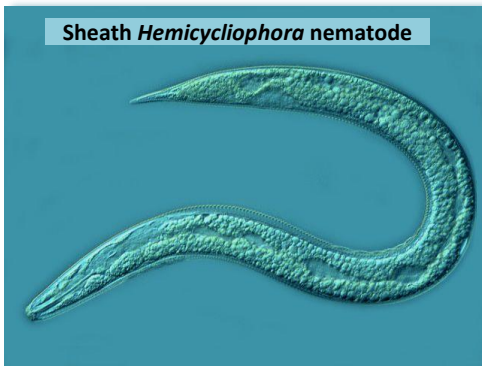
GREETINGS FROM Megan

Plant CSI Case# 10-2016

The Case of the Sheath and Lesion Nematodes

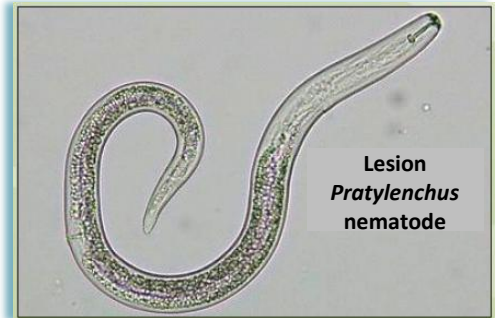
The citizen came in on a sunny afternoon complaining about the decline and death of a portion of their prized boxwood garden, which contains over a 1000 plants. The symptoms were browning and desiccation of the leaf and stem tissue. They feared the dreaded boxwood blight. In the case of boxwood blight the symptoms would be round lesions on the leaves and the dead plant would be defoliated. In this case, the dead plants were not defoliated and no lesions were present. These symptoms lead one to think that there must be something stopping the flow of water and nutrients to the plant quickly, so that it did not have time to respond with leaf drop.

Unable to diagnose the symptoms without laboratory help, I sent off a sample to the VT Disease Lab for Diagnosis. The lab report came back indicating that the boxwood was suffering from a nematode invasion.



Two main types of nematodes were found in abundance in the root and soil samples; Sheath *Hemicycliophora* nematodes as well as Lesion *Pratylenchus* nematodes.

Harry Haley and I were working the help desk when the results came in. The



PMG Guide does not list any chemical or cultural controls for nematodes. I know from previous inquiries to the Nematologist at VT that the only chemicals that are helping with the management of nematodes are restricted-use and need a licensed person to apply them. Harry and I were not happy that we could not give the citizen some kind of cultural or biological control to help thwart the dastardly characters. We spent several hours researching solutions for the problem.

The University of Hawaii has done the most research on using marigolds to repel nematodes. Different varieties of marigolds are used to target different types of nematodes. We found that *Tagetes patula* 'Single Gold' repels lesion nematodes as well as root knot nematodes and *Tagetes erecta* 'Crackerjack' repels sheath nematodes. We also discovered that the University of Texas recommends over-seeding with Cereal Rye for Nematode control for the winter. In the spring when the crop is shredded and tilled into the soil it acts as a trap for nematodes. The nematodes enter the cereal rye



Tagetes patula 'Single Gold'



Tagetes erecta 'Crackerjack'

roots and are then doomed to remain there until their demise.

Overall, our research showed there are no chemicals to eradicate these nematodes and only a few that help suppress them. We also discovered that sandy soils are more conducive to plant parasitic nematodes so there is great power in improving soils with organic matter to reduce the habitable environment for nematodes and to increase the health of the prized plants so they can pack a better punch in their fight.

In the end, the citizen was informed of the diagnosis and how they can utilize marigolds as well as soil amendments to lessen the toll on the plants. It was also conveyed that overwatering will help nematodes spread as well as moving contaminated soils. Any dead or removed parts of the plant need to be discarded in the trash rather than composted to avoid the spread of the disease.

Megan Tierney, VCE, ANR Agent Environmental Horticulture, megank@vt.edu

Master Gardener Coordinator's Corner



Find a friend! Welcome a trainee! Invite an intern! Recruit a helper! Become a mentor!

How many of you need additional volunteers working on the Master Gardener programs you are passionate about? How many of you need a second person to help in your area at one of the Learning Gardens? How many of you want to find someone to replace you because you have been doing your job for so long you need a break? How many of you feel you have a lot of information to share and would like to mentor one of the new trainees as they become an intern and eventually a Master Gardener? How many of you enjoy the socializing aspect of volunteering with the Master Gardeners?

Perhaps we don't all need helpers or want to be a mentor, but we should all want to make the new interns welcome to our organization, and the best way to do that is greet them and tell them who you are. Every time you see the new interns, tell them your name (wear your badge). It can be as simple as saying "Hi, I'm Laura." Or it could be a little more involved as in welcoming them to the event and asking a simple question such as "How did you enjoy the Master Gardener Training?" We all learn by repetition, so repeat your name (wear your badge) and their name as often as possible.

The new group of Master Gardeners is about half way through their training and they are eager to volunteer and find programs to earn their volunteer hours. There are 22 trainees between the regular training and virtual classes that will become York Poquoson Master Gardener Interns in a few short weeks. That is a lot of manpower! They have completed the Risk Management requirement so they are able to start earning volunteer hours right now. We have even seen a few of them at recent volunteer events already.

Some of the 22 new trainees will be drawn to some of our programs because of their personal interests. Some of them will volunteer on a program because they know and like someone who's already working on that program. However, many of them may be willing to try almost anything, but don't know how or where to start. People like to work with other people that they like, so this is where you have your opportunity to find help, and maybe make a new friend in the process. It is so much easier to try something new if someone invites you to do it with them and offers to show you how to do it. A general invitation to the group is nice, but a specific invitation to an individual is personal and will have better results.

If you want help in your area, or even on several programs, or even just want to welcome the new trainees, make a point of introducing yourself to the new members. Start with one. They might be the one closest to you, or an individual who looks or sounds interesting, or you have heard has interests similar to yours.



Ask them about themselves. Try to fix their name in your mind. Find out what they do or did for a living. Why did they join the Master Gardeners? Do they know what they might like to try as a volunteer? Tell them a little bit about yourself and what you do with the Master Gardeners. Offer them a specific invitation based on what you find about their interests to join you on a future date and time for a specific event. If that does not work for them, then ask if they would like to join you at a different time or date. If you come up with a mutually agreeable event, time and date, offer to give them a ride or meet you there. Be sure to greet them with enthusiasm when they join you at the activity.



We all have different personalities, abilities, likes, and dislikes, so the first new Master Gardener or two that you talk to might not be a match for you in the long run, but you won't know if you don't try. You might not have common interests or find them easy to talk to. Keep introducing yourself to the others and inviting each one you talk with to join you at some Master Gardener volunteer activity you have during the next several weeks. You can invite several to join you for a single event. The more people at each activity the merrier it is and the more work that gets done! Socializing is a big incentive for me.

If we all take the time to introduce ourselves to a few of the new trainees as they transition to being Master Gardener interns each time we get together and invite them to join us at our activities, we will quickly get the new interns integrated into our programs, recruit them as helpers, and find new friends. Each of us has 22 opportunities to find the right person or several people to help on our programs, or the right person to mentor. We definitely will make new friends, so please plan to come to the December 6th meeting and holiday/graduation pot luck from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and find a friend and recruit a helper.

Laura Marlowe, York Poquoson Master Gardener Coordinator, <https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/>,
Laura_marlowe@hotmail.com, 757 876-7074

Learning Gardens

Fall colors are coming out quickly now as the temperatures drop and there are less and less daylight hours. The fall blooming azaleas, camellias, obedient plant, and many other varieties from the Color Corner to the 4-H/Virginia Garden are putting on a show of fall colors!

The York Learning Garden is in good shape, thanks to all the great volunteers. There's plenty to do, though, to keep it looking good. Weekly weeding and cleaning of the pathways to keep them attractive and inviting to



Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

the public is important. The invasion of the Japanese stilt grass and the Mulberry weed is especially troubling now and needs a concerted effort to slow their movement into the garden. Please help us out by stopping by and pulling a few of these nasty weeds. Of course, this is the time of year for getting new plants into the ground in time for the roots to establish themselves before winter arrives.



Mulberry Weed (*Fatoua villosa*)

We are also looking forward to meeting the new Interns and giving them a tour of the garden. Hopefully, a number of them will volunteer to work in the learning gardens, there is always plenty to do in our

gardens!

Special thanks to Noel Talcott and all the volunteers for another highly successful fall plant sale at the Poquoson Learning Garden. The weather was great and so were the customers; the sale just gets bigger and better every year!

Our next Learning Garden program meeting will be Thursday, December 8, starting at 11 am, at Nettie Lamb's home. A brief business meeting to approve the 2017 budget and then our annual Learning Gardeners Christmas party! As usual, we'll be working in the York garden each Thursday morning, 9:00-12:00, come out and join us. My thanks to all the volunteers who make this such a fun activity to be a part of.

Additional information re: Japanese Stilt Grass can be found at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1237/>

Jerry Coffman, jcoffman12@cox.net, 897-2783

Poquoson Learning Garden

- Fall is a great time to be at the PLG. Join us in the garden. Our work days are every Wednesday morning, weather permitting. We have started planting cool season lettuces, Swiss chard, collards, and kale in some of the raised beds. The other raised beds will be cleaned out and readied for the December bulb planting. Until the cool weather and fall precipitation arrives, we will be looking for volunteers to help water at the PLG on Mondays, Fridays and the weekends. This is a great volunteer opportunity if your schedule does not allow you to come out on our Wednesday work days in the garden. Contact Noel if you are available to help water.
- Garden Tours: On September 15th, a group of 12 VA Beach Tree Stewards came to the Poquoson Museum to tour the garden and for a firsthand look at the trees and shrubs planted under the Treescaping plan developed by the 2013 York/Poquoson Tree Stewards. They were very impressed with the partnership the Y-P MGs have with the Museum and how together we have created a unique educational resource for the public with the garden and the trees and shrubs planted along the nature trail. Those efforts led to the Colonial Beekeepers establishing their Learning Bee Yard adjacent to the PLG.
- Greenhouse: Our next big project in the garden will be reinstalling the glass panels in the greenhouse. The straw bales have been cleaned up, so we can set up several tables next to greenhouse where we can clean and sort the panels. Once they are all cleaned, we can begin putting the glass back into the greenhouse. Hopefully that will be pretty straightforward. We know that a portion of the greenhouse will need to be sealed off with clear plastic until we research a replacement for the missing glass panels. One

option would be to install twin wall polycarbonate sheets in place of the glass. Our objective this fall will be to weather proof the greenhouse with the glass panels and plastic, then assembling the planting tables and shelves inside the greenhouse so that the greenhouse will be available for seasonal use in the spring and fall.

- The second project for the garden is a raised boardwalk in the wet area of the garden behind the pergola. New Horizons students will build the boardwalk components. They plan to fit the components together in the open lot behind the school to check everything out before we pick up and transport everything to Poquoson. The boardwalk will include a viewing platform that will allow visitors year round access, even at times of standing water. Informational signage will be placed along the boardwalk describing the plantings for the wet demonstration area.
- Tree Steward Longleaf Pine Project: Y-P MG Tree Stewards are working with the Poquoson Museum to plant longleaf pines on the south end of the Museum's 16 acre campus. Approximately 80 seedlings will be planted this fall. If that planting is successful, plans are to plant an additional 300 seedling next year. Hopefully in 4 to 5 years we will end up with something like that shown on the right.
- Fall Plant Sale: The fall plant sale was a big success. We had great weather and a steady stream of customers. Even with less plants available this year (1200 versus approximately 1700), our net proceeds were equal to last year. With the plants positioned in and around the garden, shoppers got a chance to view what we are doing at the garden and ask questions. We were joined by several of the kids with the 4-H Mums Project, who set up and sold their mums near the checkout table (all were sold), the Colonial Beekeepers, and PeCK. Carol Bartram's chickens earned their keep by working in the 3 Sisters raised bed.



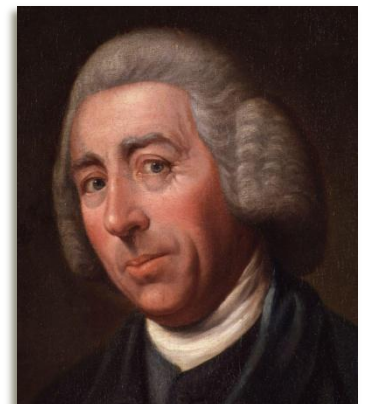
Noel Talcott, nancynoeltalcott@verizon.net, 868-0974

Why a Lawn?

It's Fall and my sister and I are having our annual discussion about that green space that grows between the road and our house. My view is that if it is green, that's good enough. Bevy's view is that only actual grass of a certain kind is permissible. She comes by this view honestly. Our grandmother hand dug every "weed" out of her front yard on her hands and knees. Her father was an English gardener who emigrated from England and managed large estate gardens.

This has caused me to wonder from where did the idea of lawn come. It is clearly not something created by nature. It turns out we have our old friend Capability Brown to thank for it. You will remember that in the Eighteenth Century Capability Brown created the English Landscape Garden that was designed to look like it was natural. Until then, grass was something that sheep, cattle, or deer ate.

The creation of lawn now required a new activity, lawn maintenance. The lawn required a uniform appearance as smooth as possible. Sheep aren't capable of



doing this. The early answer was for gardeners to hand cut it with a scythe. This was an incredibly labor intensive and skilled task. Early lawns were the purview of the wealthy who could afford this.

Enter the Industrial Revolution. In 1830 the cylinder mower was invented by Edward Budding in Gloucestershire. The early lawnmowers were driven by cogs rather than a belt and required two men to operate them. Technology flourished and by 1893 James Summer invented the first steam powered lawn mower, and in 1902 the first gas powered lawn mower was invented in Suffolk. This meant that the burgeoning middle class in England could now afford a lawn mower and a lawn. The lawn mower became a status symbol itself.



This led to the popularity of lawn-based sports such as cricket and football. These sports spread across the world and the admiration for lawn went with it. No country embraced the concept of the lawn more seriously than America. The British Landscape Garden became part of American culture. The cultivation of lawns became a symbol of civic pride and personal aspiration. The public park and the town square all had beautiful lawns.

I recognize that I am a victim of history and tradition. I inherited my grandmother's love for gardens, but not so much for lawn. My sister and I have agreed that we will divide and conquer; she worries about the lawn; I will take care of the gardens.

Bethany Beck, beckbethany@gmail.com, 898-3766

Digges House Memo - 2016



Again, for Christmas this year, we will be decorating the historic Dudley Digges House on Main Street in Yorktown.

As the holiday season in Yorktown starts on Friday December 2nd, with the lighting of the Christmas tree at Riverwalk Landing, our plan is to make the decorations **Tuesday morning November 29th** and install them on the house **Wednesday morning November 30st**.

We will be meeting in the large meeting room just off the lobby of the Tabb library, starting at **9:30** and we have the room reserved until **1:30**. You can enter by the door near the outside book drop.

Our decorating scheme will be the same as last year

where we will make swags for each of the four front windows, a wreath for the front door, and a swag for the front gate. All the materials used in making the decorations will be fresh. These materials may include various evergreens, lemons, cumquats, and dried seed pods. Included are some pictures of our handiwork from previous years.

We will need fresh greens – fir, small-leaved hollies (yaupon, helleri, etc.), aucuba, and magnolia leaves. We cannot use boxwood this year due to the possible spreading of the boxwood blight (see article at <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/PPWS/PPWS-29/PPWS-29-pdf.pdf>).

So we are looking for new out-of-the-box ideas and a wide variety of evergreens to use as fillers in our creations. Dried seed pods



L to R: Carol-Marie Kiernan & Donna Gorcys exhibit their gate swag



L to R: Bobbie Halvorsen & Joanne Roberts dress the wreath

would be a nice addition. Merrilyn Dodson and Jane May (co-chairs) will bring the crescent frames, large wreath to be enhanced, gate swag background piece, floral wire and picks, along with the fresh fruit.

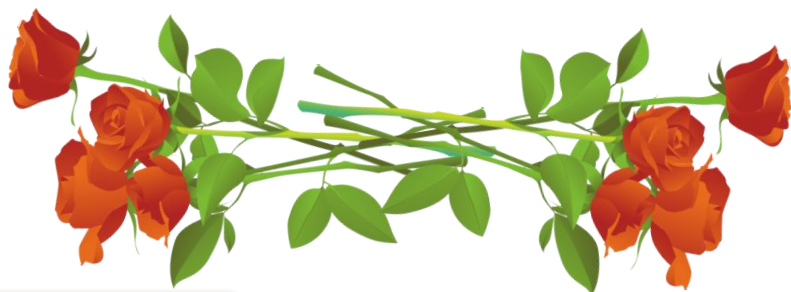
Hoping that you will join us, we will need glue guns (and glue sticks), staple guns (not electric), pliers, wire cutters, and extension cords. You might want to bring a pair of gloves, too. Additionally, we will need some tarps to cover the tables and to protect the carpet. We will also bring a shop vacuum cleaner and trash bags to aid in our cleanup.

If you have favorite refreshment you'd like to share with everyone, please bring it. We will have the use of the kitchenette.

This will be a great chance for everyone to get to know each other, so please be sure to wear your name tag as some of our new interns will be joining us in this fun event.

Steve Dodson, m_sdodson@verizon.net, 872-0824

Congratulations to Maggie Haley on achieving Master Gardener status by completing her 50 hours. Maggie is a Master Gardener who continues to be employed so finding opportunities to achieve her hours has been a challenge but we have seen her smiling face at many weekend events.



Sally Brooks received the 2016 Achievement in Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. This award recognizes Extension 4-H Agents that have worked for Extension for three to seven years and have made exemplary contributions to the 4-H program in that time. The Virginia Association of Extension 4-H Agents nominates agents for the national award and the national association awards up to three Achievement in Service Awards per state.



Even though Sally hasn't been working with VCE for a full three years yet, she previously worked with Utah Extension for 2½ years before starting her position with VCE in April 2014. So she's been with the Extension Service for about five years in all. We are proud of her work in both York and James City counties.

MASTER GARDENER CLOTHING ORDER FORM

YORK-POQUOSON MASTER GARDENER LOGO WILL BE ON ALL ITEMS EXCEPT HAT BAND.

ORDERING DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

NAME _____ **PHONE #** _____
E-MAIL: _____

POLO SHIRT: NEW STYLE AND SIZING (65% poly, #5% cotton)

1ST TIME PURCHASE (one shirt only): XS-XL \$17.50, XXL \$19.50, XXXL \$21.50

(HUNTER GREEN - Pique knit) XS-XL \$22.50, XXL \$24.50, XXXL \$26.50

Ladies Sizes:(shaped/taped w/shorter sleeves) S-34" M-38", L-42" XL-46" XXL-50"

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Men's Sizes:(boxy style) S-38", M-42", L-46", XL-50", XXL-54", XXXL-58"

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Personalize (Name) _____ \$ 6.00

Placement of Name: _____ (top left, top right, top left sleeve, etc.)

(Y-PMG Logo on left) _____

SWEATSHIRT (Unisex Sizing) (Sand color, 50/50) S-XL \$30.00, XXL \$32.00, XXXL \$34.00

Quantity _____ Size _____ Unisex sizes noted below. \$ _____

Personalize (Name) _____ \$ 7.95

Placement of Name: _____ (top right, top left sleeve, etc.)

(Y-PMG Logo on left) _____

HIPSTER LENGTH JACKET (Unisex Sizing) (Forest Green) 100% taffeta nylon woven water resistant shell with lightweight cotton flannel lining, elasticized cuffs, snap-up jacket with adjustable drawstring at bottom.

Chest Measurements: S 49", M 51", L 53", XL 55", XXL 57", XXXL 60"

Quantity _____ Size _____ S-XL \$40.00, XXL \$42.00, XXXL \$44.00 \$ _____

Personalized (Name) _____ \$ 7.95

Placement of Name: _____ (Y-PMG Logo on left/personalization on right)

WORK SHIRT (Unisex Sizing) (100% cotton) (Stone bleached), long sleeved, left pocket.

S 44", M 48", L 52", XL 56", XXL 60", XXXL 64"

Quantity _____ Size _____ S-XL \$34.00, XXL \$36.00, XXXL \$38.00 \$ _____

Personalize (Name) _____ \$ 7.95

Placement of Name: _____

(Y-PMG Logo on left/personalization - above left pocket, sleeve, cuff, etc.) _____

WORK APRON (dark green heavy twill w/adjustable bib and three 8+" pockets at hem)

M 24" long and 28" wide \$20.00, L 26" long and 30" wide \$22.00

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Personalize (Name) _____ \$ 7.95

Placement of Name: _____

(Y-PMG Logo at top right corner/personalization on pocket, below logo, left corner)

HAT BAND (Hunter Green) \$10.00 Quantity _____ \$ _____

BALL CAP (Navy-stone washed twill) \$23.00, Logo - VAMG on front, Y-P on back

One size fits all Quantity _____ \$ _____

TOTE BAG (White w/green trim) \$22.00 Y-PMG Logo on front, Name on back

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Personalize (Name) _____ \$ 7.95

TEE-SHIRT (Pistachio (light green, 100% pre-shrunk cotton XS-XL \$7.00, XXL-XXXL \$9.00

Ladies Sizes:(shaped/taped w/shorter sleeves)XS-36",S-38" M-40", L-42" XL-44" XXL-46"

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Men's Sizes: (boxy style) S-40" M-42", L-44", XXL-46", XXL-48", XXXL-50"

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **YORK COUNTY Extension Horticultural Program**

Send check with order form to:

Evelyn W. Parker

27 Dryden Drive

Poquoson, VA 23662 (parkerew@aol.com/868-0496)

ORDERING DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

TOTAL \$ _____

UNISEX SIZING: S 34"-36", M 38"-40", L 41"-43", XL 44"-46", XXL 48"-50", XXXL- 52"-54"

November 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Locations: YH – York Hall, 301 Main St NQP – New Quarter Park RWL – River Walk Landing PW – 105 Service Drive		1	2 Ordering deadline for MG clothing items	3 9:30 Monthly Learning Garden Meeting at St. Luke's UMC	4	5
6  Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8 Election Day  9:30 am Monthly MG Meeting at St. Luke's UMC	9 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	10 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG 6 pm Wetlands Board at YH * 7 pm Hampton Roads Horticultural Society Mtg at St. Luke's UMC	11 Veterans' Day  County Offices Closed	12 8 am Bird Walk at NQP 8 am – noon Household Chemical/Electronics Recycling at PW 9 am – 3 pm Yorktown Market Days
13	14  Full Moon	15 5:30 pm MG Trainee Graduation at Providence UMC	16 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	17 9:30 am – noon Work in YLG	18	19 9 am – 5 pm Yorktown Holiday Open House Weekend
20 9 am – 5 pm Yorktown Holiday Open House Weekend	21	22 10:00 am Hort Therapy at York Convalescent Center	23 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG	24  HAPPY THANKSGIVING! County Offices Closed	25	26 7 am Bird Walk at NQP
27	28	29 9:30 – 1:30 Make Digges House Decorations at Tabb Library	30 9:30 am – noon Work in PLG Hang Digges House Decorations	9:30 am – noon Work in YLG	7:30 pm Christmas tree Lighting at RWL 	10 am – 3 pm Christmas Market on Main St. 7 pm Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade

* Hort. Society speaker is Dr. Laurie Fox and her topic is Sustainable Landscape Practices.